

Applic. No. 10/533,812

Amdt. dated December 30, 2005

Reply to Office action of October 4, 2005

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 15 and 17-30 remain in the application. Claims 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, and 30 have been amended. Claim 16 is being cancelled herewith.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 17 and 30 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that claim 17 should be amended to depend from claim 16 to provide proper antecedent basis. It is noted that claim 15 was amended to include the subject matter of claim 16. Therefore, claim 17 is now properly dependent on claim 15. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to have been overcome.

The Examiner stated that in claim 30, line 2, the sentence is unclear because it does not define the coating. Claim 30 has been amended so as to further clarify the claim. Therefore, the rejection is believed to have been overcome.

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It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 3 on page 3 of the Office action, claim 15 has been rejected as being fully anticipated by Slindee (U.S. Patent No. 4,573,349) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is appreciatively noted from item 5 on page 6 of the Office action that claims 16 and 18-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 16. Therefore, claim 15 is allowable. Since claim 15 is allowable, dependent claims 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are allowable as well.

Allowable claim 19 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 15. Therefore, claim 19 is allowable as well.

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Since claim 19 is allowable, dependent claims 21 and 30 are allowable as well.

Allowable claim 22 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 15. Therefore, claim 22 is allowable as well.

Since only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited herewith.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner &
Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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